

1 IN THE CLAIMS

1 1-2. (canceled).

1 3. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 2 6,  
2 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of through  
3 bores; and  
4 wherein said base of said bracket is for affixing to the  
5 substrate.

1 4-5. (canceled).

1 6. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 5~~  
2 Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:  
3 a bracket;  
4 wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear  
5 wall;  
6 wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to  
7 a substrate; and  
8 wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said  
9 shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:  
10 a) a base; and  
11 b) a pair of side walls;  
12 wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against  
13 the substrate;  
14 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of  
15 longitudinal edges; and  
16 wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend  
17 upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said  
18 base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said  
19 bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in  
20 lateral cross section, wherein each side wall of said

21 bracket has a plurality of through bores; further  
22 comprising a track wall;  
23 wherein said track wall consists of:  
24 A) a base; and  
25 B) a pair of side walls;  
26 wherein said base of said track wall has a pair of  
27 longitudinal edges;  
28 wherein said base of said track wall has a pair of  
29 through bores;  
30 wherein said pair of through bores in said track  
31 wall align with said pair of through bores in said  
32 base of said bracket; and  
33 wherein said pair of side walls of said track wall  
34 extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal  
35 edges of said base of said track wall,  
36 respectively, so as to allow said track wall to  
37 have a generally and substantially U-shape in  
38 lateral cross section, wherein said track wall sits  
39 in said bracket so as to allow said bracket to  
40 capture said track wall.

1 7. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 5 6,  
2 wherein said base of said track wall abuts against said  
3 base of said bracket.

1 8. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 5 6,  
2 wherein said side walls of said track wall abut against  
3 said side walls of said bracket, respectively.

1 9. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 5 6;  
2 further comprising a base plate;  
3 wherein said base plate sits in said bracket.

- 1 10. (original) The joints as defined in claim 9, wherein  
2 said base plate abuts against said base of said track  
3 wall.
- 1 11. (original) The joints as defined in claim 9, wherein  
2 said base plate has a pair of through bores;  
3 wherein said pair of through bores in said base plate  
4 align with said pair of through bores in said base of  
5 said track wall, respectively; and  
6 wherein said pair of through bores in said base plate  
7 align with said pair of through bores in said base of  
8 said bracket, respectively.
- 1 12. (original) The joints as defined in claim 11; further  
2 comprising a stud;  
3 wherein said stud extends from said bracket.
- 1 13. (original) The joints as defined in claim 12, wherein  
2 said stud has an end;  
3 wherein said end of said stud abuts against said pair of  
4 side walls of said bracket;  
5 wherein said end of said stud is affixed to said pair of  
6 side walls of said bracket;  
7 wherein said end of said stud abuts against said base of  
8 said track wall when said base plate is not present so  
9 as to allow said base of said track wall to distribute  
10 the load of said stud to said bracket; and  
11 wherein said end of said stud abuts against said base  
12 plate when said base plate is present so as to allow said  
13 base plate to distribute the load of said stud to said  
14 track wall and ultimately to said bracket.

1 14. (cancelled)

1 15. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 14~~  
2 Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:  
3 a bracket;  
4 wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear  
5 wall;  
6 wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to  
7 a substrate; and  
8 wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said  
9 shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:  
10 a) a base; and  
11 b) a pair of side walls;  
12 wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against  
13 the substrate;  
14 wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of  
15 longitudinal edges; and  
16 wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend  
17 upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said  
18 base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said  
19 bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in  
20 lateral cross section; further comprising at least two  
21 diagonal braces;  
22 wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend  
23 diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of  
24 said at least two diagonal braces abuts against a  
25 respective side wall of said bracket; and  
26 wherein each of said at least two diagonal braces is  
27 affixed to said respective side wall of said bracket.

1 16. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 14~~  
2 Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:

3        a bracket;  
4        wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear  
5        wall;  
6        wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to  
7        a substrate; and  
8        wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said  
9        shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:  
10       a)    a base; and  
11       b)    a pair of side walls;  
12       wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against  
13       the substrate;  
14       wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of  
15       longitudinal edges; and  
16       wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend  
17       upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said  
18       base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said  
19       bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in  
20       lateral cross section; further comprising at least two  
21       diagonal braces;  
22       wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend  
23       diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of  
24       said at least two diagonal braces is flat.

1       17.    (cancelled)

1       18.    (currently amended)    ~~The joints as defined in claim 17~~  
2       Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:  
3       a bracket;  
4       wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear  
5       wall;  
6       wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to  
7       a substrate; and

8       wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said  
9       shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:  
10       a)    a base; and  
11       b)    a pair of side walls;  
12       wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against  
13       the substrate;  
14       wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of  
15       longitudinal edges; and  
16       wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend  
17       upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said  
18       base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said  
19       bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in  
20       lateral cross section; further comprising at least two  
21       diagonal braces;  
22       wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend  
23       diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of  
24       said at least two diagonal brace has an end; and  
25       wherein said end of each of said at least two diagonal  
26       braces has a plurality of through bores, wherein said  
27       plurality of through bores in said end of each of said  
28       at least two diagonal braces align with corresponding  
29       through bores in said respective side wall of said  
30       bracket.

1       19.   (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 5 6,  
2       wherein one joint is an intermediate base joint;  
3       wherein the substrate is a concrete foundation;  
4       wherein said track wall extends outwardly from both ends  
5       of said base of said bracket;  
6       wherein said pair of through bores in said base of said  
7       bracket, said pair of through bores in said track wall,  
8       and ~~said~~ 2 pair of through bores in ~~said~~ a base plate

9 receive a pair of anchor bolts extending upwardly out of  
10 the concrete foundation; ~~that~~  
11 wherein said anchor bolts ultimately receive a pair of  
12 nuts, respectively;  
13 wherein ~~said~~ a stud extends centrally upwardly from said  
14 base plate so as to be straddled by said pair of nuts;  
15 and  
16 wherein said at least two diagonal braces are four, a  
17 pair of each extending from each side wall of said  
18 bracket, diagonally outwardly in opposite directions.

1 20. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 5 6,  
2 wherein one joint is an end base joint;  
3 wherein the substrate is a concrete foundation;  
4 wherein said track wall extends outwardly from an  
5 outermost end of said base of said bracket;  
6 wherein only an outermost one of said pair of through  
7 bores in said base of said bracket, an aligned one of  
8 said pair of through bores in said track wall, and an  
9 aligned one of said pair of through bores in said base  
10 plate receive an anchor bolt extending upwardly out of  
11 the concrete foundation that ultimately receives a nut;  
12 wherein said stud extends upwardly from an outermost end  
13 of said base plate; and  
14 wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend  
15 diagonally inwardly.

1 21. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim 5 6,  
2 wherein one joint is a ceiling and floor joint;  
3 wherein the substrate is an upper header and a lower  
4 header that are spaced-apart by floor joists and a stud;  
5 wherein two brackets are utilized;

6 wherein said base of one bracket is for abutting against  
7 said upper header;  
8 wherein said base of the other bracket is for abutting  
9 against the lower header;  
10 wherein said other bracket is in alignment with said one  
11 bracket;  
12 wherein two track walls are utilized;  
13 wherein one track wall extends outwardly from both ends  
14 of said base of said one bracket;  
15 wherein the other track wall extends outwardly from both  
16 ends of said base of said other bracket;  
17 wherein said through bores in said base of said one track  
18 wall, said pair of through bores in said base of said one  
19 bracket, a pair of through bores in the upper header, a  
20 pair of through bores in the lower header, said pair of  
21 through bores in said base of said other bracket, and  
22 said pair of through bores in said base of said other  
23 track wall receive a pair of through bolts;  
24 wherein two studs are utilized;  
25 wherein one stud extends centrally upwardly from said  
26 base of said one track wall so as to be straddled by said  
27 pair of through bolts;  
28 wherein said one stud is aligned with the stud of the  
29 substrate;  
30 wherein the other stud depends centrally from said base  
31 of said other track wall so as to be straddled by said  
32 pair of through bolts;  
33 wherein the other stud is aligned with the stud of the  
34 substrate; and  
35 wherein said at least two diagonal braces are eight, a  
36 pair of each extend from each side wall of each bracket,  
37 diagonally outwardly in opposite directions.